

lands lay far away, but the centre of their civilisation was exposed to every attack. From the top of the Cheviot ridge the moss-troopers could descry three of the richest shires of Scotland stretched below them a helpless prey, while southward they could see nothing but desolate moors. The fertile Lothians and the Tweed valley could be raided by Percy, but the English midlands could not be touched by Douglas. It was but seldom that an army from Southern counties invaded Scotland ; for Percy, as we have seen, did his best to keep Border affairs in his own hands. England was, therefore, less affected by Scotland than by France or Flanders. The reader of Chaucer's ' Canterbury Tales ' may remark the number of references to G-hent, Brittany, and the continental countries. He will scarcely find a single mention of Scotland or of Ireland. This would not be the case in a collection of stories of the Tudor or the Stuart times. How little the ordinary Englishman of this age knew of the sister-kingdom, is shown by passages in which the chroniclers gravely inform us that the name of the Scotch capital is Edinburgh.<sup>1</sup>

When the army had returned in the late autumn, Parliament was at once held. The nation was angry, and the Commons this time spoke out. They granted money for the defence of the kingdom, but they granted it for particular purposes only, and appointed special \* Treasurers of War \* to see that these conditions were kept. They sent up two petitions to the King; one praying that his household accounts should be overhauled once a year by the principal officers of the realm, the other that he would announce who were to be his ministers for the ensuing year. Both requests were modest. They by no means amounted to a settlement of the government, such as previous Parliaments had made. The Commons recognised that the King was no longer a boy, and that he would choose his own servants. They desired only to make these servants responsible. But Bichard, instead of meeting the Commons half way, refused their requests in terms of insult. As to the affairs of his household, he would do as he pleased. As to the names of his ministers, there were good and sufficient men in office at present,

<sup>1</sup> *Mon. Eve.*, 62 ; *Hlgden*, ix, 64.